TELIDON REPORTS

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BANK OF MONTREAL LAUNCHES CANADA'S FIRST COMMERCIAL HOME BANKING SERVICE

The Bank of Montreal, Canada's third largest chartered bank, now offers electronic funds transfer, account balancing and monthly statements for 1,400 subscribers to Infomart's Grassroots service for agribusinesses in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Ontario.

Based on user studies from the United States and Europe, home banking is rated by customers as one of the three most popular videotex services and a convenience they would pay for. Following the success of Germany's Verbraucherbank as well as other European services, 12 of the largest U.S. banks now offer home banking videotex services.

Using a personal identification number (PIN) and a private password, Grassroots customers can gain gateway access to the Bank of Montreal's computer system during or after regular banking hours. Canadian consulate staff in foreign countries use the Bank of Montreal service to do their Canadian banking. The bank plans to add bill paying and credit balances for MasterCard accounts.

The system is showcased at the Bank of Montreal's "branch of the future" in downtown Toronto. Customers can transfer, deposit or withdraw funds from their accounts, pay bills or apply for loans by using dedicated videotex terminals. The terminals feature touch-sensitive screens, card readers, printers and a videodisc interface. To access accounts, customers insert their Automatic Teller Machine (ATM) card into the card reader and enter their PIN. The screen displays a digitized version of an ATM keyboard. When the transactions are completed, an updated account statement can be printed. Information on the bank's Grassroots project, as well as branch and ATM location maps for Metro Toronto is presented through a videodisc.

For more information, contact:
David Getz
Bank of Montreal
Domestic Banking
First Canadian Place
P.O. Box 1
Toronto, Ontario
M5X 1A1
(416) 867-7662

STORYBOOK SUCCESS FOR GENESIS RESEARCH

Genesis Research Corporation is a classic success story in an industry harboring lucrative niches for small firms with good ideas. Offering short stories for children, the "Genesis Story Time" service features 16 allegorical stories containing information on education, nutrition, safety and wildlife.

The words of the stories appear on the screen, to be read to young children.

The stories are illustrated with full color NAPLPS graphics.

Genesis Research has financed all its projects through private venture capital. Following a huge success over Infomart's Grassroots and Bell's Vista, Genesis distributes 24 hours of stories to U.S. cable operators through Keycom, a joint venture company of Honeywell, Centel Telephone and Field Enterprises.

Keycom will run the stories on its Keyfax teletext service slated for Chicago in 1984. Keycom has also signed agreements with four of the largest U.S. cable operators, reaching a total audience of four million subscribers.

Operators pay $1,500 for an NTSC compatible Electrohome decoder to be hooked up to the modulator of an open cable channel. Subscription fees are five to ten cents a month per subscriber. The service is distributed over the U.S. satellite Satcom 4.

In co-operation with Microtaure Inc. of Ottawa, Genesis Research Inc. is also developing children's stories for personal computers.

For more information, contact:
Vice President
Greg Stetski
Genesis Research Inc.
1036-167 Lombard Ave.
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3B 0V3
(204) 949-1581

MICROS OPEN NEW MARKETS FOR TELIDON

Canadian companies continue to pioneer the development of new applications for videotex. Telidon software for personal computers is helping to build widespread demand for videotex services. Aimed at the well-developed personal and business computing market, Telidon software can be offered as a value-added package for business graphics, page creation and interactive transactions. The software can be easily run over existing micros, allowing users to experiment with videotex services without using a separate terminal.

Low start-up costs and a short production schedule encourage the formation of new videotex software houses and helps these firms attract corporate investors. So far, Canadian videotex companies have developed software for Apple, IBM, Commodore, Hyperion, Columbia and Compaq compatible micros.

Microtaure Inc. of Ottawa has developed Teligraph which can create and decode TELIDON/NAPLPS pages on the IBM PC and features a slide show capability for audio-visual presentations. The package sells for $400.

Tayson Information Technology, Inc. of Calgary sells host software for IBM, Digilog and Dynalogic micros for $2,500. The package allows the creation of an independent NAPLPS data base with up to eight ports.

At $350, the Microstar Videotex Interpreter developed by Microstar Ltd. of Ottawa, is one of the lowest priced NAPLPS decoding packages available for the IBM PC, the Dynalogic Hyperion, Columbia and Compaq computers.

Avcor of Toronto has developed a $100 software package to decode NAPLPS pages using a Commodore 64.

Formic of Montreal is marketing a $1,600 software package to create and manage a NAPLPS data base using Apple micro computers. This package will be available for the IBM PC by the end of 1984. Formic has also developed BASITEL, a NAPLPS programming language which can be used to create computer aided instruction courses. BASITEL is priced at $675.

Limicon of Toronto has developed Graphease, a page creation system for Commodore personal computers. The package sells for $1,000 and includes 96 macros, full NAPLPS color palettes, high resolution page creation and a variable animation window.

Working closely with Canadian companies, DOC provides technical expertise and consulting services to promote new software and content development.

For more information, contact:
Craig Taylor
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365 Laurier Ave.
Ottawa, Ontario
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NEW VIDEOTEX BOOK AVAILABLE

The Architecture of Videotex Systems, by Jan Gecsei focusses on the technical aspects of videotex. The book provides a general description of videotex and teletext, followed by detailed chapters on communications media and networks, presentation protocols and standards and existing and planned videotex applications.

Jan Gecsei is currently Professor of Computer Science at the University of Montreal. He earned his Masters and Ph.D. degrees in electronic engineering at the Czechoslovakia Technical University in Prague, and has extensive experience in the design and evaluation of computer memory structures.

The Architecture of Videotex Systems is published by Prentice-Hall Inc. and is available in Canada for $38.95. A 10 per cent discount is available for orders of five or more copies.

For more information, contact:
Carl Henderson
Prentice-Hall Canada Inc.
1870 Birchmount Rd.
Scarborough, Ontario
M1P 2J7
(416) 293-3621

MEP WORLD WEATHERWATCH

World Weatherwatch, a division of Meteorological Environmental Planning Ltd. (MEP) and American Weatherwatch Inc., has developed an international Telidon-based weather forecasting system.

Each hour, MEP computers receive and organize marine and weather data from geostationary and orbiting weather satellites.

More than 10,000 pages of forecasts, maps and illustrations are produced and issued each month, including agricultural predictions on the potential evaporation and irrigation requirements for specific areas; climatological and forecast data for commodity exchange traders to forecast crop yields routing information for pilots; and media forecasts for use in television broadcasts.

For offshore exploration and vessel routing, MEP can predict wave height for small lakes or oceans, as well as detailed wind information. This information can be accessed through a communications link operated by INMARSAT.

MEP supplies agricultural weather information to system operators across North America including Infomart's Grassroots. The company also provides independent page creation and design services.

Long-term forecasts for temperature and precipitation are developed on the company's own Telidon data base which also contains regularly updated information on weather conditions for several agricultural centres in Canada, the United States and Asia.

For more information, contact:
M. S. Hirt
President, Meteorological
and Environment Planning
850 Magnetic Dr.
Downsview, Ontario
M3J 2C4
(416) 661-5960

UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH LAUNCHES TWO FARM SERVICES

Expanding on Infomart's Grassroots agribusiness service in Saskatchewan and Manitoba, the University of Guelph has developed Universitel, an agricultural information service providing more than 60,000 pages of information and services for Ontario farmers. Universitel provides constantly updated commodity prices from the Winnipeg Commodity Exchange, the Chicago Board of Trade and several Ontario sources. The service also offers interactive farm management programs for machinery and equipment selection, land purchase or rental options, fertilizer utilization, hog analysis, mortgage and fixed cost calculations, and beef and cow ration analysis.

Universitel has also developed packages of recommendations for agricultural management from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the University of Guelph.

The university's Vet-Tel service provides the latest information on research findings, epidemiological information, products, services, events and professional upgrading opportunities for veterinarians. The pages are illustrated with color graphics and include animation capabilities. Vet-Tel also offers messaging, inventory control for clinics to manage supplies, drugs, and equipment and interactive programs to aid in diagnosing and treating illness.

For more information, contact:
G.A.B. Moore
Office of Educational Practice
University of Guelph
Guelph, Ontario
N1G 2W1
(519) 824-4140

iNET UPDATE

Following the completion of its highly successful one-year field trial, Telecom Canada, formerly the TransCanada Telephone System, has begun a market test of iNet 2000 in the non-regulated member companies of Telecom Canada. Bell Canada and the British Columbia Telephone Company, the only member companies regulated by the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) have applied to introduce a commercial rate plan for users and information and service providers.

Pending CRTC approval, the commercial service is expected to begin by early 1985 with an estimated 50 Information and Service Providers, serving approximately 1,500 business and residential subscribers across Canada.

The new service will feature a national directory of information providers and data bases. Users will also be able to set up a personal directory for automatic access to services. More specific and simplified commands will allow easier movement among data base services.

For more information, contact:
Peggy White
Telecom Canada
Room 1940
160 Elgin St.
Ottawa, Ontario
K1G 3J4
(613) 239-5242

TELIDON SERVICE HELPS TRAIN DRIVERS

The Province of British Columbia is now using a Telidon-based training system to test drivers' knowledge of laws of the road.

Developed by Dominion Directory Ltd. and the Educational Research Institute, the Adaptive Testing service combines statistical research techniques with Telidon graphics designed to illustrate the meaning of each question.

Using Telidon terminals installed in Motor Vehicle Department offices throughout the province, drivers respond to a series of multiple choice questions. If an incorrect answer is chosen, the applicant is asked to try again. Each response is rated and used to determine the next question, allowing the number and level of difficulty of the questions to be tailored to each applicant.

The system requires fewer questions, and has proven more accurate in assessing applicants' knowledge than conventional exams.

The test can be used to pass or fail driving candidates or to monitor progress during training.

For more information, contact:
Rex Schofield
Dominion Directory
Third Floor, 4400 Dominion St.
Burnaby, British Columbia
V5G 4G4
(604) 438-5535

CABLE CONVERTER FOR TELIDON AND TV

The Videoway Group Inc. of Montreal, has developed a cable converter which can provide access to 256 cable-delivered services including interactive videotex services such as home banking and shopping, and a 20,000 page teletext magazine. The Videoway Group Inc. is a consortium of the Videotron Group Inc., GTEC Corp., and the Quebec Society for Industrial Development.

The Videoway service can also be used as a channel converter for more than 50 cable and pay-TV channels and display subtitles for the hearing impaired.

The system employs equipment and communications protocols which conform to the international Open Systems Interconnection (OSI) standard, designed to promote increased compatibility for communications systems.

Adapted to the specific requirements of cablecasters, the converter is driven by a DEC PDP 11/24 computer with a cable controller at the head end. With the converter priced at $250, the Videoway service is expected to draw more than 100,000 subscribers by 1985.

For more information, contact:
Rosanne Flower
The Videoway Group Inc.
1010 Sherbrooke St. West
Montreal, Quebec
H3A 2R7
(514) 285-5709

BUS INFORMATION SYSTEM NOW IN MALLS

Using high resolution, full NAPLPS Telidon graphics, The Genesys Group of Ottawa has developed a bus information system displaying constantly updated OC Transpo bus schedule information, arrival and departure times.

Telidon terminals installed in local shopping centres, bus and train terminals help riders determine which bus to take by entering their current location and desired destination. The system will provide route maps, bus numbers and arrival times.

Based on a bus schedule data base developed by Teleride/Sage of Toronto, the new system is highly successful and can be easily adapted to any city with a computerized bus scheduling system.

For more information, contact
Val Smith
The Genesys Group
1755 Courtwood Cres.
Third Floor
Ottawa, Ontario
K2C 3J2
(613) 226-8740

TELIDON HUMAN RIGHTS DATA BASE

A new data base marking the 35th anniversary of the International Bill of Human Rights has been developed by the Department of Communications, The Canadian Human Rights Commission, the Secretary of State and Supply and Services Canada.

Using Telidon graphics to illustrate the provisions of the Human Rights Bill, a total of 125 pages in French and English were created. The data base is available on CANTEL, operated by the Department of Supply and Services and will be placed on other public Telidon systems across Canada, including Grassroots, SaskTel's Path- finder service, Vidéotron's Videoway and the data bases of TVOntario and Project Elie in Manitoba.

The data base is divided into three parts: general information on the Inter- national Bill of Human Rights, a quiz and a list of agencies dealing with activ- ities related to human rights.

For more information, contact:
John Horvath
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365 Laurier Ave.
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0C8
(613) 995-5081

SASKTEL LAUNCHES AGRITEX

SaskTel's Agritex service is now under- way in Saskatchewan, offering access to the Envoy 100 electronic mail service and five agribusiness data bases, including Grassroots, AgriStar, AgNet, FarmFacts, and Dataport, a Saskatchewan area service.

Agritex has close to 150 subscribers and SaskTel expects to reach 1,000 users by late 1985. Subscribers pay $14.50 per month for the service plus a user fee of six cents per minute. As part of a distributor's agreement with Norpak, SaskTel is selling Mark IV Telidon ter- minals to potential customers at $1,700. Agritex can also be accessed by personal computers though ASCII-based terminals will not display the high resolution graphics.

Drawing on its experience as a system operator for its Pathfinder service during the past two years, SaskTel developed Agritex to provide access to several commercial data bases for agri- business information, electronic messaging, shopping, and banking services.

For more information, contact
Jim Osborne
SaskTel
2121 Saskatchewan Dr.
Regina, Saskatchewan
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(306) 347-2000

TMVS TO LAUNCH GATEWAY BY MID-1984

Times Mirror Videotex Services, a division of Times Mirror, will begin commercial operation of its Gateway videotex service in southern California by summer 1984. The Gateway service is a joint venture between Times Mirror and Infomart. The decision to launch the service is based on the enthusiastic response of users during a nine-month trial in 1982.

Offering home shopping, banking, messaging, news, television and community information for 350 trial participants, Gateway provided access to 70,000 pages of information from and service providers. Terminals were installed for at least six months to determine usage after the novelty wore off, and subscription charges were imposed on families wishing to continue the service.

The commercial Gateway will be available to subscribers in Orange County, California 18 hours a day, 7 days a week, with a monthly subscription fee of $30.

The service will include banking, shopping, electronic mail, games and entertainment, news, travel, educational, and consumer affairs information.

For more information, contact:
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Times Mirror Videotex Services
1375 Sunflower Ave.
Costa Mesa, California 92626
(714) 957-2453

NAPLPS OFFICIALLY RATIFIED

The Canadian Standards Association (CSA) and the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) have officially ratified the full North American Presentation Level Protocol Syntax (NAPLPS) for videotex and teletext systems.

Representatives of more than 80 companies and organizations from Canada and the United States voted unanimously in favor of the standard. These included leading computer manufacturing firms such as IBM, Control Data Corporation, Digital Equipment Corporation, Data General Corporation, Hewlett Packard, Honeywell Information Systems, and Texas Instruments Inc.; telecommunications companies such as Bell Canada, CNCP Telecommunications and AT&T; and large-scale investors in electronic equipment such as the Canadian Bankers Association, General Electric Co., and Exxon Office Systems.

Communications Minister Francis Fox congratulated the CSA and ANSI and announced that the Department of Communications will immediately adopt the new standard and actively promote its use for future videotex and teletext services. "With the standard question now settled, we can expect a more rapid development of the videotex industry in both Canada and the United States," Mr. Fox said. "Manufacturers and content providers will have much more confidence in developing products and services that will not require modifications due to future changes in standards."

Canada and the United States have jointly submitted the new standard to the International Telegraph and Telephone Consultative Committee (CCITT), the standard-setting body of the International Telecommunication Union, to be incorporated as part of a new draft recommendation on world videotex system standards. The CCITT Plenary Assembly, which meets every fours years, has scheduled its next meeting for the fall of 1984.

The joint CSA/ANSI standard specifies the coding scheme to be used in videotex and teletext services and permits videotex and teletext service providers and equipment manufacturers

to develop products according to a unified interchange format. These protocols have been designed to accommodate several different implementation technologies

Drafted by the joint working committee comprising representatives of the CSA, the Canadian Videotex Consultative Committee (CVCC), ANSI, and the U.S. Electronic Industries Association (EIA), the videotex/teletext coding standard has been undergoing the process of approval since August 1982.

For more information, contact:
Ethel Royle
Canadian Standards Association
178 Rexdale Blvd.
Toronto, Ontario
M9W 1R3
(416) 747-4108

27 PROJECTS RECEIVE CDP FUNDING

Twenty-seven Canadian organizations and companies will share in a total of $5 million in assistance under the Telidon Content Development Program. The funds will be used to develop sophisticated and innovative software and content for Telidon systems.

The federal government will provide up to 30 per cent of the eligible costs of each project, with a maximum contribution per project of $500,000 and a minimum of $15,000. This contribution is expected to result in an investment of $38.6 million from the private sector and the creation of 328 jobs.

One hundred fifty organizations from across Canada applied for funding under the program after Communications Minister Francis Fox called for proposals in August.

Mr. Fox praised the creativity and careful business planning shown by the qualifying applicants, whose proposals ranged from the development of consumer and community information systems to health care advice and home management and entertainment.

"While we unfortunately are not able to provide funding for all the proposals, I am convinced that many of those who do not receive assistance under the Telidon Content Development Program are commercially viable and will be launched with support from private investors or other government programs," Mr. Fox said. (Qualifying CDP proposals are listed on pages 9-11.

For more information, contact
Mary-Frances Laughton
Department of Communications
365 Laurier Ave.
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0C8
(613) 995-4376

TVONTARIO LAUNCHES NEW SERVICE

TVOntario has launched its Createx-C page creation software for professional page creators. Available for distribution in North America and Europe, the NAPLPS-based software diskette is compatible with a variety of terminals.

Createx-C features up to 262,000 color shades and single key stroke commands for faster page creation. An optical scanner helps cut transmission and storage costs by reducing the amount of bytes required for instruction commands. The scanner screens each page and eliminates non-essential programming instructions.

For more information, contact:
Ted Riley
TVOntario
Box, 200, Station Q
Toronto, Ontario
M4T 2T1
(416) 484-2613

TELIDON CONTENT DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Actualité médicale Inc. (Montreal):
To produce a commercial videotex
service to aid physicians.

Adeum Electronics (Ottawa):
To produce standalone data bases
for display on ruggedized terminals
in locations such as professional
buildings and conference centres. The
content will be related to specific
locations and contain advertising and
local information.

Cableshare Inc. (London): To develop
specialized data bases including
10 retail or mall applications and
two automative sales applications
(integrating videodisc). Over half of
the projected system sales will be in
the United States.

Community Information Centre of
Metropolitan Toronto: To develop a
self-sufficient data base of social
and community service information in
Toronto. The information will be
placed on commercial services such as
Teleguide and will also be offered via
cable television.

Cybertex Publishing Inc. (Montreal):
To develop information packages for
tourists. This is a Telidon version
of the company's already successful
Citipak guides.

Dominion Directory Co. Ltd.
(Vancouver): To develop and provide
content for a variety of applications.
This content will relate primarily to
the tourism/hospitality industry.

Edimedia (Quebec City): To provide
two services -- a teletext news service
to be carried by cable operators; and
a videotex service that will offer a
French language information data base
for farmers.

Faxtel (Toronto): To augment its
Marketfax system by converting ASCII
files to Telidon format and adding new
features to the existing data base.
There will be an addition of more than
300,000 new pages to this system.

Fenn Company (King City, Ontario):
To provide content for the Videopress
service operating in Toronto's Eaton
Centre. There will be mall appli-
cations in a number of locations with
direct line dial-up.

Formic (Montreal): To establish a
data base service, Marketel, that will
promote both Formic's products and
those of other companies that sell
Telidon software and services.

Greater Vancouver Information and
Referral Service: To provide
community information to residents
of the lower mainland of British
Columbia. Content includes special
data bases for women, the disabled,
newcomers to the area and ethnic
groups.

Home Management Systems Inc.
(Winnipeg): To expand its Electronic
Gourmet system, currently available on
Grassroots and Compuserve. The
company also plans to use its unique
design appproach to develop electronic
Joker, Holiday, Entertainment (TV) and
Household hint packages.

Infomart (Toronto):
1. To expand the existing Ontario-
based Teleguide service to other areas
of Canada and into the United States.

2. To increase the market penetration
of the Grassroots service from
Manitoba into Ontario, Saskatchewan,
Alberta and the United States.

3. To convert the lapsed Vista service
into a consumer-driven service that
will be available primarily in hotel
rooms.

InfoNorth/Laurentian University
(Sudbury): To extend InfoNorth's
existing educational service by
developing Telidon-based courseware
to be distributed by videotex and full
channel teletext throughout the
Northern Cable Services network.

Institut de recherches cliniques de
Montréal: To expand the Télé-Santé
project. Access terminals in clinics
and hospitals will provide self-
diagnosis, emergency and general
health information.

Laboratoire Télématique (Montreal):
To produce five bilingual multi-media
kits to promote Telidon awareness and
announce introductory courses in
telematics, data base development,
content, videotex and page creation.

Lansdowne Consulting Group (Ottawa):
To offer software and content creation
to clients with Geac computers. The
company will also provide consulting
services for automatic page creation
facilities which it has developed for
this computer.

Le Groupe Vidéoway Inc. (Montreal):
To provide a tele-ordering and
advertising information service in
Montreal. Initially, distribution
will be through teletext over cable
and telephone for ordering, with a
two-way cable facility to be
introduced later.

Pixel Productions (Toronto): To
use Telidon in TV productions for
advertising, to produce multi-media
Telidon packages for clients, develop
educational software, and produce
standalone packages for
microcomputers.

Scriptel Inc. (La Presse) (Montreal):
To create a teleshopping consumer
information data base. The service
will be offered as part of Videotron's
Videoway system, in and around
Montreal.

St. Clair Videotex Design (Toronto):
To subsidize the cost of creating
promotional packages for product/
service advertisements and promotional
data bases.

Télé-Université, Université du Quebec
(Quebec City): To create videotex
information in three areas:
administration and management of the
courses offered, electronic editing,
and courseware for 20 adult education
courses.

The MEP Company (Markham, Ontario):
To create a data base of weather
information for use by ships and
aircraft. Most of the pages will be
automatically created using software
specially developed for this purpose.

United Audio Visual (Ottawa):
To create and manage content for
clients and to offer the traditional
audio/visual services such as pro-
duction, storage, distribution and
presentation through standalone
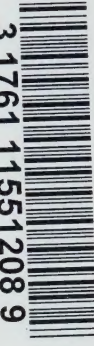Telidon terminals.

University of Prince Edward Island
(Charlottetown): To produce and
market educational material. This is
a joint venture of U.P.E.I., the Red
Cross and IEA Consulting. Information
created at U.P.E.I. will be produced
for use on microcomputers.

University of Western Ontario
(London): To provide educational,
research, service and general
information for full-time students,
faculty and staff; and to extend its
news service on the Grassroots data
base.

Videotex Atlantic (Halifax):
1. Atlantic Seaguide: To provide an
interactive information data base with
display units in high traffic areas to
allow public access to tourism,
hospitality and public information.

2. Atlantic Gourmet: To produce a
multi-branch standalone videotex
system which will provide a wide
range of food-related and community
information to retail shoppers in
Atlantic Canada.

3. Tradeshow Information: To create
a portable videotex package for use
at conventions and trade shows.

Canada